



TROJAN TODAY

YOUR SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SOURCE FOR NEWS AND EVENTS | FEBRUARY/MARCH 2019

Hoop Dreams

Highland High Senior Michaela Schmidt third in school history to score 1,000 points!



HOW IT HAPPENED ...

In a 30-point scoring tear Jan. 2, Michaela Schmidt hit what had seemed like a mythical milestone four short years ago.

"I scored 15 points as a freshman," she said. "I never imagined I would put up enough points to hit 1,000."

With 1,000 points and counting, High School Senior Michaela Schmidt is a standout on the basketball court, an academic all-star — and so much more.

Her family and the nine friends she has been besties with since elementary school bring her joy. Her time in the youth group at First Presbyterian Church grounds her.

While eyeing four years of varsity play in her rear-view mirror, Schmidt has already signed a full-ride scholarship and committed to play hoops for Indiana University Northwest while pursuing a career as a pediatric nurse practitioner.

The daughter of Deanna and Michael Schmidt has the best of all worlds.

"I get to study hard at subjects and push myself on the basketball court," she said. "It's all good." ♦



Senior becomes Highland's third Lilly Scholar in 4 years

Congratulations to Meet Patel, Highland High's newest Lilly Scholar.

The scholarship allows Patel to attend any Indiana college or university — at no cost — and includes \$900 per year for required books and equipment.



The academic heavyweight and gifted athlete has already selected Butler University in Indianapolis for his undergraduate studies in health sciences as a precursor to medical school and a career practicing sports medicine.

"From the beginning, Butler was a top choice," Patel said. "It's got just what I was looking for — the coursework of a large university but in a smaller, more intimate setting."

Although he makes it all look easy, Patel credits discipline and time management for his success.

"I prioritize what needs my time," he said. "When I'm on the baseball field, I'm only thinking in that moment and the task at hand. Then, I move on."

Although he believes his competitive days as a tennis player and center-fielder may be behind him, Patel is preparing to take his racket, glove and violin with him to school.

"I have been fortunate to have had guidance from my family and not had to struggle too much," he said. "Nothing has come naturally but I'm happy to say I am a work in progress." ♦

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SCHOOL BOARD

Carol Green Fraley, President

Patrick Krull, Vice President

Luanne Jurczak, Secretary

Victor A. Garcia, Member

Robert Kuva, Member

The school board meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Administration Building, 9145 Kennedy Avenue, Highland.

INFO: Visit hhs.highland.k12.in.us for the latest information, including meeting agendas, school policies, board mission, beliefs and values.

Time to register Highland children for kindergarten

The public elementary schools will hold kindergarten registration the week of March 18. Parents are urged to bring their children and the items listed below to the school that serves their immediate district according to the following schedule:

8:45 – 11 AM:

Last names "A" through "J"

12:15 – 2:30 PM:

Last names "K" through "Z"

MONDAY, MARCH 18

Merkley Elementary School
9340 Fifth St. • (219) 922-5640

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

Johnston Elementary School
8220 Fifth St. • (219) 923-2428

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Southridge Elementary School
9221 Johnston St. • (219) 922-5650

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Warren Elementary School
2901 100th St. • (219) 922-5660

AGE REQUIREMENT

Students must be 5 years of age on or before Aug. 1, 2019.

**ITEMS FOR REGISTRATION:****1. Five proofs of residency**

Two of the following:
NIPSCO, water, phone, cable (utility bills/deposit receipts)

Two of the following: Driver's license/state ID showing current address, vehicle registration, recent paycheck/unemployment check receipt.

One of the following: Lease and rent receipt, mortgage and homeowners insurance documents, notarized letter with three proofs of residency from the homeowner (parent/guardian must provide ID listed above)

2. Proof of custody, if applicable**3. Birth certificate****4. Social security number****5. Current immunization records** (name and phone number of pediatrician).

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

“Learn about new graduation requirements and the different pathways Highland High School will be offering students”



There are big changes for our incoming freshmen and we'll have additional announcements for our middle school parents later this year.

In a nutshell, the Indiana Department of Education is rolling out a series of Graduation Pathways that have some flexibility built in and a goal to raise the bar on graduating seniors.

Recommendations from the Graduation Pathways Panel seek to ensure every Hoosier student graduates with:

1. A broad awareness of and engagement with individual career interests and associated career options.
2. A strong foundation of academic and technical skills.

3. Employability skills that lead directly to meaningful opportunities for postsecondary education, training and gainful employment.

I want to encourage all parents who will have a student beginning their freshman year in the fall to attend the Guidance Department's **Incoming Freshman Parent Night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. February 26 in Monbeck Auditorium.**

This vital program will explain Indiana's new Graduation Pathways and requirements that go into effect later this year for the class of 2023, as well as options Highland High School will offer.

Question? Please contact the High School Guidance Department at (219) 922-5613.

Brian Smith
Superintendent
School Town of Highland

Grant awards

HIGHLAND EDUCATION FOUNDATION

FROM DRONES ...

Fifteen lucky teachers and their students received \$9,573 in grants from the Highland Education Foundation for 2019.

HEF Board President Judi Caddick said the group has been blessed with generous donors and a bevy of successful fundraisers since it was founded in 2015.

"We are happy that we are able to do this for our Highland schools," said Caddick, who approached Superintendent Brian Smith with the idea of creating the foundation when she was preparing to retire from a teaching career. "Our goal is to continue fundraising, generating individual and corporate donors, who can help us grow."

"It is exciting to see these projects come to life through the charitable works of the Highland Education Foundation," Smith said. "We are lucky to have them."

If you would like to become an education foundation board member, volunteer or donor, please contact Judi Caddick at (219) 923-7621 or email highlandedufdn@gmail.com.



RECIPIENTS

Lauren Andree
Merkley 3rd Grade
\$500

Mark Ashmann
MS Social Studies
\$343

Annie Backs
MS 6th Grade
\$2,617 – includes
designated donations

David Cotner
High School Math
\$370

Mary Gallagher
Merkley Kindergarten
\$191

Amanda Johnsen
Kelley Thompson
Warren 2nd grade
\$550

Traci Mazera-Juarez
High School Math
\$550

Dylan Marich
High School Science
\$1,132

Jodi Olah
High School English
\$425

Carrie Pasko
Pamela Bravo
Southridge
Kindergarten
\$190

Becky Raycroft
Southridge 2nd Grade
\$860

Suzzane Rodriguez
Merkeley 5th Grade
\$500

Rhonda Symanski
Dylan Marich
HS Art & Science
\$416

Kristen Verhoeve
Merkeley
\$999



... AND DOTS

As a year-long initiative to build student's self-worth and value each other's unique qualities, Warren educators Ms. Johnsen and Ms. Thompson are working to give students the feelings of belonging, family, kindness, and collaboration as they collectively explore the critically acclaimed book, called simply, "The Dot."

TO SEATING ...

At Merkley, Ms. Rodriguez and Ms. Andree have received grants to equip their classrooms with a variety of alternative seating options. Research shows sitting on alternatives to traditional desk seating – such as stability balls and wobble stools – help students focus while building their posture and muscle tone.

... AND SENSES

Also at Merkley, school counselor Ms. Verhoeve's dream to create the district's first sensory room is coming to life thanks to the Highland Education Foundation. There, students will have options to unwind, release stress and tension without acting out in a way that could result in disciplinary action.

NEXT FUNDRAISER

Join us for our third annual Trivia Night April 6 at The Room, 8353 Indianapolis Blvd. Follow us on Facebook for details.

INFO: Call (219) 923-7621 or email hefdnevents@gmail.com.

Searching for David's heart

Highland High School thespians will take the stage this month as cast members take their audience through the emotional twists and turns as 16-year-old Darcy Deeton and her friend Sam embark on a journey to find the recipient of Darcy's brother David's heart as a means to healing her own.

Adapted from her novel by the same name, Cherie Bennett's poignant tale of a family coming to grips with heartache and recovery will evoke laughter as well as tears. Recipient of the prestigious Humanities Prize, "Searching for David's Heart" will evoke laughter as well as tears.

MEET OUR CAST MEMBERS ...

Darcy Deeton	Lilly Lamberg
Harry Houdini	Kayleigh Ferguson
Sam Weiss	Elijah Montanez
David Deeton	Nate Taillon
Doug Deeton	Christian Moore
Claire Deeton	Isabelle Hibbard

Visit highland.k12.in.us for a complete list.

FEBRUARY 22-24

HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL'S MONBECK AUDITORIUM

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

www.HTC.BookTix.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Join us as we celebrate spring's arrival with instrumentals provided by our high school and middle school orchestras.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. March 7

WHERE: Monbeck Auditorium at Highland High School, 9135 Erie St.

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: Email Orchestra Director Benjamin Leonard-White at bleonard@highland.k12.in.us or visit highlandorchestra.org,

MATTRESS SALE

Feeling like the Princess – or the Pea? It may be time for a new mattress. The choir, band, orchestra and theater students are hosting a mattress sale to raise funds for the fine arts department.

The fund-raiser offers everything a mattress store has to offer except the high prices. Not only can you save up to 50 percent off retail prices, but roughly \$100 to \$150 goes to the school for every mattress sold.

Mattresses – available in all sizes – include major brands like Beautyrest and Therapedic. Layaway, delivery and credit are also available.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 16

WHERE: Highland High School

EVENT LINK: Text Highland to 67076

TRIVIA NIGHT

Join the Highland Education Foundation for its second annual Trivia Night. Put a team together and attempt to take the traveling trophy away from the Warren Elementary parents, who will attempt to retain their championship title.

WHEN: 6 to 10 p.m. April 6

WHERE: The Room, 8353 Indianapolis Boulevard, Highland

TICKETS: \$30 includes dinner, wine and beer along with your tournament play. Tables of eight are available at a \$225 discounted rate.

INFO: For more information or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Foundation President Judi Caddick at (219) 923-7621 or hefdnevents@gmail.com